



Good afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Emmanuel Mutshaila and before I begin, I would love to express my gratitude for the opportunity that has been given to me to have an audience with such esteemed leaders of the state of Maine and our nation at large. Your acts of service for the betterment of the state and its people are a testament of what an ideal leader truly is. Your investments in time, resources, skills and community projects are the reasons why both native and immigrant families have made their way to Maine. Maine is becoming the breadbasket of America because wonderful people like yourselves have made it your personal goals to selflessly serve the people.

Senator Baldacci, while still a student at Maine law school founded the Maine association for public interest law to provide scholarships for law students that are pursuing public interest law opportunities. I read a statement once that said the greatest testament of a leader is in their ability to make an impact that outlives them and to raise future leaders, and for over 30 years, the vision that senator Baldacci had while still a young man has served and benefited an entire generation of young people that are pursuing political science and public policy.

Representative Meyer, ma'am, where do I begin with someone as illustrious as you. I have learned that the impact of character is one that speaks louder even when the person is quiet. Your selfless battles to enact policies that strengthen social safety net programs, building family resiliency and promoting healthy children development are feats that transcend description, you have funded schools and built workforces to ensure that young people such as myself can call



Maine our home. Please allow me to say that you are the mom of the state and the mom that we young people are looking for because we know that you have our back.

And it is because of great leaders such as yourselves that I have full confidence that my generation has a chance to be great. Sir Isaac Newton once said I see far and feel empowered because I am standing on the shoulders of giants. I can stand here and say that I have fulfilled my dream of becoming a professional engineer because of the people that helped me arrive here.

Leaders like Brian, Sarah Clark and Jen looked at this young boy who had nothing but a dream of becoming an engineer, and they said to him “Emmanuel, we will partner with you and make your dream a reality”. Through the boys and girls club, the University of Southern Maine developed a scholarship for lower income families and first-generation college students that would bridge the financial gap and make it possible for students to graduate with little to no debt.

When I arrived at university, I was told that college life was a one-man marathon, running as an individual for four years until you graduate, and I went into my studies with this mindset that I was alone, a small fish in a big pond, just another student trying to get his degree, one among the many. That was the case until the boys and girls club through the promise scholarship helped and reassured me that college does not have to be a one-man race but a team game and that they would be my teammates. They were willing to invest in my dream and my success and in doing so they showed me that in a team game, the success of one, is the success of many, the tears of one, is the tears of many and the victory of one, is the victory of many.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SOUTHERN MAINE

I stand here as a success because they became my teammates, the boys and Girls club and the personnel that work there poured themselves into my dreams through their various programs and financial aid opportunities. I am a product of what selflessness, sacrifice and investing can produce. Today I stand here as an advocate for this initiative, because I have full confidence that when this initiative takes off, it will produce future leaders, future senators, future engineers and future world changers because everyone in this room poured themselves and decided to team up with the next generation, held their hands and said we will make your dreams come true because your victory is the victory Maine.

Thank you very much.